

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is requested.

Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1-13 will be pending for the Examiner's consideration. Applicants appreciate the Examiner's allowance of claims 4-13, pending the suggested amendments to improve the clarity of claims 8 and 10. In accordance with the Examiner's suggestions, claims 8 and 10 have been amended to improve clarity. Claim 1 was also amended to add further clarity and to add that "when R is a hydrogen atom, m is not 1." No new matter has been added by the amendments.

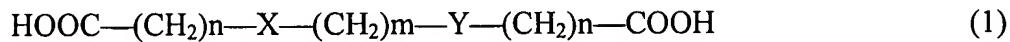
With regard to the Examiner's comment that the information disclosure statement filed on April 4, 2005 failed to comply with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(2) because it did not include a copy of one of the non-patent references, viz., Bergeron *et al.*, J. Am. Chem. Soc., 1995, Vol. 117, pgs. 6658-6665, applicants concurrently file a Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement which includes a copy of said reference. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that the reference be considered.

With regard to the Examiner's objections to claims 8 and 10 for the informalities discussed on pages 2 and 3 of the Office Action, applicants have amended both claims in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions. Applicants believe that these claims, in addition to the other previously allowed claims (*i.e.*, claims 4-7, 9 and 11-13), are in a position for allowance.

35 U.S.C. § 102 Rejections

Claims 1-3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,489,265 to Hotta et al. ("Hotta") for the reasons discussed on pages 3 and 4 of the Office Action. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration in view of the amendment to claim 1. Hotta is directed to a reversible thermosensitive recording medium used in information recording devices. Hotta, col. 1, lines 16-26. Hotta teaches use of a low molecular weight material comprising a mixture of at least one straight chain hydrocarbon compound (A) having a melting point below 130 °C and at least one straight chain hydrocarbon compound (B) having a melting point which is lower by at least 30 °C than the melting point of the straight chain hydrocarbon

compound (A). *Id.*, col. 12, lines 36-44. Hotta further teaches the following general formula (1) by which the straight chain hydrocarbon compound (A) having amide bonds and carboxyl groups can be represented:



wherein $1 \leq n \leq 26$, $1 \leq m \leq 26$, and X and Y each independently represent CONH or NHCO, but do not have an identical structure at the same time. *Id.*, col. 14, lines 39-48. Hotta is silent as to fine spherical particles having uniform molecular orientation.

Applicants respectfully submit that Hotta does not anticipate amended claim 1 of the present invention for at least the following reasons. First, the compounds disclosed in Hotta are not within the scope of amended claim 1 of the present invention. Second, Hotta does not disclose or suggest a fine spherical particle which has uniform molecular orientation, as recited in claim 1 of the present invention. Accordingly, Hotta does not anticipate or even render obvious claim 1 of the present invention. Nor does Hotta anticipate claims 2 and 3 of the present invention, since these claims depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 1.

Reconsideration with allowance is thus requested.

No additional fees are believed to be required for this submission. Should any fees be required, however, please charge those fees to Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP deposit account no. 50-0310.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: May 3, 2006

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